AMERICAN FEDERATIONIST OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information as may benefit the trade union movement.

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AGITATE ! EDUCATE ! ORGANIZE !

VOL. 9. NO. 42. WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, JANUARY 10, 1920. WHOLE NO. 458.

FASCISM IN INDUSTRY DOOMED BY UNION

Washington, Jan. 18—Giving the workers democratic control, a voice in determining conditions under which they labor, is the beginning of democracy in industry and the end of one-man rule in the work shop, writes President Gompers, in American Federationist.

The trade union, says President Gompers, gives the worker "an effective voice in determining the number of hours per day he shall work, which means for the worker the Magna Charta of his liberties; it secures a quit-claim deed to time for rest and study and recreation.

"When the worker, through his union, secures sanitary conditions in the work place, he actually takes for himself more of life. When he cuts down the number of hours per day that he must spend in the workshop he actually takes for himself a freer life, a happier life and a more intelligent life.

"When the worker, through his union and in association with his fellow workers, goes to the employer and sits down to actually talk about terms and conditions of employment, he is for the first time able to write down a distinguishing characteristic between himself and a piece of material; for the first time he exercises those qualities which make for a free, happy life from insert and voiceless commodities.

"The meaning of this is that unions have put manhood into industry. They have given to the worker the right and power to exercise those characteristics that mark man apart from the balance of the world. They give to workers the opportunity to exercise the power of selection, the power of direction and the power of initiative, the fundamentals that can bring this development to pass is one of the greatest institutions ever known in history and merits the full acknowledgment of history."

U. S. BORN ARE ILLITERATE.

Washington, Jan. 16—Many American-born children are growing up illiterate, according to the annual report of the chief of the children's bureau, United States department of labor.

In a survey of five states in which the employment of children under 16 years of age was found that of 19,696 children between 14 and 16 years old to whom educational tests were issued, more than one-fourth could not write their names legibly, had never gone beyond the first grade, and considerably more than one-half were in the fourth grade, or lower, when they left school. Only about 3 per cent of the 14-year-old children and none of every 100 had reached high school. These children were native Americans. Of 2,000 "white children" only 2 were foreign born. The report declares that "it cannot be stated too strongly or too emphatically that can bring this development to pass is one of the greatest institutions ever known in history and merits the full acknowledgment of history."

EXCITABLES ARE ASSURED.

Nashville, Tenn., Jan. 16—In his regard as chief of the state bureau of work shop and factory inspection, Commissioner Allen gives assurance to excitable folk who "see things" when employees suspend work: "In the last industrial upheaval in some of our representatives of the laboring and employing classes have raised visions of disaster as a result of some really trifling labor disputes which have come together unwarranted. And now the winds of these industrial disturbances have blown away. The common sense of the working people of Tennessee has asserted itself and their indignation at misrepresentation, while the common sense of employers would not permit them to take advantage of their opportunity to add new difficulties in the situation."

TO TRAIN APPRENTICES.

Waco, Wash., Jan. 16—The building trades council and employing contractors are perfecting plans to establish vocational training in the industry. The plan will be applied through the public schools. The end of four years the boy will be examined as to his technical information, skill as a mechanic and his attitude toward work. The examination shall be conducted by a committee composed of the trade in which the boy is taught. If the examination is satisfactory the boy shall be given a journeyman mechanic.

This educational movement will be directed by a committee composed of representatives of the working contractors and the public schools.

PIANO WORKERS GAIN.

Chicago, Jan. 16—Striking members of the Piano, Organ and Musical Instrument Workers' union have secured settlement with the piano manufacturers. The 48-hour week, union conditions and a minimum weekly wage of $28 are agreed to.

President Dold of this organization recently received 30 days in jail for violating an injunction that would prohibit these workers from picketing the shops and stations, but this has not affected the trade union militancy of Dold or his fellow members.

PRESSMEN ADVANCE.

Pressmen's Home, Tenn., Jan. 16—Continued gains are being made by the membership of the International Printing Pressmen and Assistants' union, according to officers of that organization.

In the last issue of the American Pressman is printed a list of 200 additional localities in which affiliates have raised wages and improved working conditions.

GREAT WASTE IN COAL.

Indianapolis, Jan. 16—The waste in the mining of Indiana coal is so great that the average waste in the mining of bituminous coal, reports Will H. Hays, secretary of the Indian conservation commission.

"In short-cuts," he says, "the loss has been reduced to 50 per cent of the coal mined, but the waste in Indiana has not been reduced to that minimum."

COAL MINE FATALITIES.

Washington, Jan. 16—The United States bureau of mines reports during September 172 men were killed in and about the mines and 1,000 at other except Kentucky, as compared with 22 in the same states in September, 1918. The 1919 figures show a decrease of 55 fatalities from the record of the previous year.

FAMINE IN AUSTRIA; THOUSANDS MAY DIE

Washington, Jan. 16—In a cable to the world, by Samuel G. Appleton, secretary of the General Federation of Trade Unions of Great Britain and president of the International Federation of Trade Unions, says:

"Famine is stalking in Austria, writes Trade Union Congress and General Federation, issuing special appeal. Much, however, depends on the success of Mr. Hoover's plan for United States of America to feed Europe. Will this matter personally?

President Gompers has also received this information on the same subject from the International Federation of Trade Unions at Amsterdam, Holland:

"The reports which have been circulating in the press for some time about the great destitution of the population of Germany and Austria and about the still greater misery that awaits it in the coming winter months are fully borne out by letters and telegrams which our bureau receives from the Austrian trade union center affiliated to our federation.

"Hunger and destitution in Austria, bullies all description. Hundreds of thousands are literally starving and tens and tens of thousands are unavoidably doomed to die from starvation and the material assistance is not at once forthcoming."

The letter from Amsterdam to Trade Unions urges that contributions be forwarded for the benefit of the Austrian and this relief movements be inaugurated everywhere.

CAN'T OUT TENANT.

New York, Jan. 16—A tenant cannot be ousted when it is impossible to find other premises and when he refuses to pay additional rent, is the ruling of Justice Strahl in the sixth municipal court of Brooklyn. The landlord brought nonpayment proceedings because the tenant refused to pay the increased rental which was demanded during the month. The tenant refused to pay this increased rental and remained in the premises after the first of the month because he could not find an apartment.

The court held that, since the tenant could not move because he could not find any premises elsewhere, his holding over was unavoidable, could not be charged against by him, and did not grow out of any default or contractual act on his part, but was due to the serious housing shortage prevalent in this city since the country entered the war.

"Various government committees," said the court, "are endeavoring to relieve the situation, which appears to be growing worse. These changing circumstances and new conditions, in my opinion, make it necessary to mold the law to meet the wants of the people of this time, otherwise this holding over rule of law would be unreasonable and would be a misuse of justice and every feeling of humanity."

STATE PROGRAM UPHELD.

Bismarck, N. Dak., Jan. 16—The state supreme court has upheld state laws providing for a state industrial program, which was based bond issues for state owned industries. The legislature had passed by the legislature controlled by the Non-Partisan league, and the state has resented the attacks of the league. Suit was brought by friends of the league to clear title to state bonds which were purchased by eastern brokers because the validity of the bonds was questioned.

In sustaining the acts the state supreme court held that the people of North Dakota have the right to govern themselves and to amend their constitution when the time is ripe. The amendments voted on at the last general election authorizing the state to embark in such enterprises have blown away. The common sense of the working people of Tennessee has asserted itself and their indignation at misrepresentation, while the common sense of employers would not permit them to take advantage of their opportunity to add new difficulties in the situation."

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THEY NEVER SEE, HEAR OR UNDERSTAND

By PRESIDENT GOMPERS, IN AMERICAN FEDERATIONIST

Irrational and reactionary thought and action are playing their part in American industrial life, to the detriment of the people of America and of the world. Contradictory thoughts are not lacking among those whose eyes turn toward dismantled Russia and behold in that realm of terror and starvation a beautiful and wonderful Socialist and Labor Commonwealth, or often referred to as the "hard-headed" business men of the country.

Senator W. Atlee Pomerene makes this statement to the association of life insurance presidents:

Years ago the American spirit was startled because a Vanderbilt had said, "the public be damned." But Vanderbilt seems to have had no patent on the phrase, or if he had it is being freely quoted today by men who have as little regard for the public welfare as he himself had. There is no difference in kind between him and a Foster who aided by the extreme Socialist and I. W. W. classes of the country, aims to enlist under his leadership the iron and steel workers of the nation and to paralyze industry, or a Lewis, who, to further his own ambitions, has said of us that we are the same elements, calls 400,000 men out of the mines and says to the public: "Freeze or starve."

Charles Piez, formerly of the emergency fleet corporation, in a recent address, had this to say:

At this time organized labor is stronger in membership and stronger in its influence than ever before in its history. There is effort in the method and its aims none of the care and consideration that should attend the exercise of great power. Organized labor is being urged to prepare to wreck the state itself in its blind intent to follow the course laid by radicalism.

These are typical of expressions used by men who ought to have a deeper and truer understanding of facts. Such statements are a cast odium on the trade union movement and to convey the impression that the great organized movement of workers is daily growing more and more anti-social.

The trade union movement today is the same trade union movement that it was on March 12, 1917, when it gave utterance to a declaration of principles which brought to the American nation a wave of courage and conviction and that took first rank as a contributing factor to the solidarity and invincibility of America. It is the same trade union movement that throughout the war earned the praise and gratitude of all America and of the world by its loyalty of conduct and its earnestness of endeavor. It is the same trade union movement that is being tested throughout the years of its history, during day by day, so to meet the problems of the day and the hour as to contribute to a better and freer life for all those who serve and toil.

The trade union movement is a democratic movement of workers who seek progress and liberty and justice for humanity through those methods which have properly served the cause of humanity. The campaign of slander and untruth directed against labor now ill befits men who have responsible positions in American industrial life. The world has other and has need of every constructive thought and effort of which our nation is capable.

The American labor movement is contributing to the full in the work of the world. It is seeking to go forward through the paths of better standards of life. It resents with scorn the attacks now being unjustly made upon it. The trade union movement seeks justice. It seeks only what it is willing to give—a square deal in industry. It understands alike the fallacies and dangers of the destructive propaganda of bolshevik type and the insidious and destructive effort of reaction. It aims both for kindly evils in a land which can never be expressive of either and in which there never can be permanent lodgment for either.

There are better things to be had. It is possible to gain for all a larger measure of freedom and justice. There will yet be an ideal-ism in industry which will transform it from a sordid grind for gain alone into a place of service in which the great driving passion will be the unfolding of life to its uttermost possibilities. The organized workers of America understand, however, that no gain can be made except through the good that has been, that is, and that may yet be. Progress can be made only through the orderly and democratic processes engrained into our nation from the hour of its birth and tested in every hour since that hour.

The American labor movement is the champion of freedom. It is the champion of men and women. It is the champion of the cause of progress. It spurns destructive creeds because it understands their tyranny. It spurns reactionary creeds because it knows that the cause of liberty in which the dead past and its crumbled institutions have no place.

There are some who can not understand this. There are others who will not understand. Despite this, there must be progress.

CHILD LABOR BARRIER LOWERED DURING WAR

Washington, Jan. 16—How the barriers against child labor were let down during the war is among the subjects dealt with in the annual report of the chief of the children's bureau, United States department of labor.

Even before this country entered the war, says the report, "a mistaken spirit of patriotism and abnormally high wages drew many boys and girls into industry who, under normal conditions, would have continued at school.

The Keating child labor law, effective Sept. 1, 1917, was declared unconstitutional by the United States supreme court on June 2, 1918. This law prohibited the employment of children under 16 in mines and quarries and under 14 in factories.

The immediate effect of the court's decision in states where the state child labor standards were lower than those imposed by the federal law, was the prompt restoration of the unsafe working day for children under 16 and an increase in the number of working children. In a number of states there was an appreciable decrease in the violation of state laws.

In a decision rendered by the United States emergency fleet corporation the contract has resulted in saving 40 yards last year and found numerous violation of child labor laws.

"In the mills, where, says the report, "was the employment of children in hazardous occupations which in pre-war times, had been confined to men and older boys."

U. S. PAYS LOW WAGES.

Washington, Jan. 16—Investigation by the congressional commission on reclassification of salaries indicates that Uncle Sam pays sweat-shop wages in many cases. A "salary" of $6 for thousands of government employes is common, and in many departments $1,000 is regarded as the maximum. There are those on the pay roll at $25 and $30 a week, the same as more than half a century ago. It is shown that for part time work the government pays as low as $20 and $30 a month for charwomen.

In the treasury department section that handles mutilated money 92 counters sort over 900,000 pieces of money each day. Recently one of these women detected a counterfeit $10 bill which was handed to a nearby service operator who took the bill to the bank tellers and in 15 cases received good money for it. The woman is paid $900 a year and must handle 10,000 pieces of money every day.

GARMENT STRIKE AVERTED.

New York, Jan. 16—A city-wide strike that menaced the ladies' garment industry has been averted by the intervention of the matter to an arbitration board. The workers ask for higher wages to meet increased living costs.

CIGAR MAKERS GAIN.

Jacksonville, Ill., Jan. 16—Cigar makers have been given a 44 cents raise, 1,006. A similar advance was made several months ago.

WIN UNION SHOP.

Fort Scott, Kan., Jan. 16—Brick and clay workers in this city have secured recognition of their organization and the union shop.

WANT $1.25 AN HOUR.

Cleveland, Jan. 16—Plasterers' union No. 80 has proposed a new wage scale, effective May 1, which raises rates from $1 an hour to $1.25.

COURT SETS COMPENSATION.

Washington, Jan. 16—Railroad workers are opposed to that portion of pending railroad legislation which they claim does not permit the courts to set the valuation on railroad property. The owners insist that congress has no right to set valuations and they call attention to a decision by the United States supreme court, which trade unionists and others might well bear in mind when discussing solutions of the labor situation.

In the so-called Monongahela case the United States supreme court ruled:

"By this legislation congress seems to have assumed the right to determine the value of the property to be taken, and to fix the amount of compensation. But this is a judicial function and not a legislative function. The legislature may determine what private property is needed for public purposes—that is a question of a political and legislative character; but when the taking has been determined, then the question of compensation is judicial. It does not rest with the public, taking the property, through congress or the legislature, its representative, to say what compensation shall be paid, or even what shall be the rule of compensation. The constitution has declared that compensation shall be paid, and the ascertainment of the value is a judicial inquiry." (Monongahela Navigation Co. v. United States, 148 U. S., 373.)

ECHO OF MINERS' STRIKE.

Topeka, Kan., Jan. 16—Governor Allen has been photographed for the movies and will be photographed in limit because he sent troops into the mining section of this state during the recent miners' strike. Now he is called upon to "pay the fiddler." Kansas labor papers are laughing at the governor's publicity antics, and at mass meetings of trade unionists it is declared that there was no necessity for addling the cost of troops to the miners did not provide or give the slightest indication of disorder.

Governor Allen's "volunteer" miners are the subject of amusement. The organized workers show that every ton of coal mined by the "volunteers" cost from $10 upward, and that these inexperienced men and boys laboured under conditions unknown to them. In many cases they contracted colds and pneumonia.

FEW IMMIGRANTS ALARM.

New York, Jan. 16—In a statement issued by the inter-racial council it is declared that the stories of racial leaders that there will be a flood of immigrants will take with them on leaving the United States are false, says Commissioner Immigration to America.

The commissioner says America needs these immigrants and that the present year will witness the arrival of immigrants in numbers equal to the pre-war average of 900,000 and 1,000,000 yearly. It is estimated that 1,000,000 will return as soon as passport regulations are let down, and meanwhile there have been 300,000 since the armistice was signed.

GARMENT WORKERS UNITE.

Port Wayne, Ind., Jan. 16—Garment workers in this city have organized and affiliated with the United Garment Workers.

PHOTO ENGRAVERS GAIN.

Kansas City, Mo., Jan. 16—A wage increase of 8 a week has been secured by the Photo Engravers' union.

CLERKS REDUCE HOURS.

Columbus, Miss., Jan. 16—Through organization retail clerks have reduced their work week three hours.

UNEMPLOYED IN FAR WEST.

Tacoma, Wash., Jan. 10—"Unemployed, and about 60 of them, many service men who were made so much of once upon a time, are walking the streets of Tacoma these days," says the Labor Advocate, published in this city.

"The employment offices, public and private, admit that jobs are no longer looking for men, but quite the reverse, and conditions are not likely to improve in the near future.

"The unemployed are also even more strongly in evidence in Seattle, and reports from Oregon and Idaho further that conditions have been worse there for some time.

"The cry for increased production that has been raised in the newspaper articles here and elsewhere has evidently vanished with the arrival of the unemployed, the grotesque insincerity of such a campaign being now obvious.

"When the working men walked out on strike last November, production it was insisted that the only thing which was needed was more intend of striking, but with the men being laid off and works closing down, the production cry has lost its force and is not to be employed against the men who own the plants."

PORK ACCUMULATES.

Washington, Jan. 10—Urgent necessity for the storage of pork products in its Europe, either by the government or through private agencies, as Kansas labor papers are laughing at the governor's publicity antics, and at mass meetings of trade unionists it is declared that there was no necessity for addling the cost of troops to the miners did not provide or give the slightest indication of disorder.

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LABOR-FARMER UNITY WILL REDUCE PRICES

San Francisco, Jan. 16—"Many of the editorial writers for America's plutocratic press," says the Seamen's Journal, "are working overtime just now to prove that there can be no effective alliance between the farmer and the city industrial worker.

"Nevertheless, it is an absolute fact that one of the things the farmers and workers can get together on is the operation—co-operation in buying and selling. It is called 'consumers' co-operation in Europe. And the co-operative societies in England, Scotland, Denmark, Germany, Russia, France and Italy contain millions of members. Their transactions run into hundreds of millions of dollars annually. They control their own banks, manufacturing establishments, wholesale establishments and thousands of retail stores for supplying their wants.

"Surely America is ripe for a nation-wide co-operative movement. The farmer is robbed by the grain, butter and egg and poultry speculators; by the millers of the northwest and by the warehouse men. The goods they receive for cattle are fixed by the buyers of the packing house monopoly, who act as one. The prices they are fixed by the buyers in the same way. The farmer must bear the brunt of the embargo of middlemen which surrounds him. And he can do it only by eliminating with the ultimate consumer—the industrial worker.

"The farmer is helpless against the speculator and other gentry akin to the speculator. He is willing, and no doubt, benefit the tillers of the soil and help materially to solve the city consumer's problem by making both ends meet."

CO-OPS. RETURN SAVINGS.

Gillespie, Ill., Jan. 16—The quarterly report of the local Co-operative society shows that it has paid a dividend or returned savings to its 386 members, on the basis of the amount of purchases each member made during the period of 4 per cent, totaling $1,631.54; paid interest on their share and loan capital, $105.70; paid undivided profits to over, $119.96; they have in their reserve fund, $1,038; and paid a member for the quarter were $27,225.75, and to non-members for the same period, $12,[illegible] (net) members.

Tovey, Ill., Jan. 16—The Tovey Co-operative society has paid a 5 per cent quarterly dividend or returned saving to its membership on the basis of purchases. The 50 members made purchases amounting to $[illegible], and non-members bought goods amounting to $5,154.70.

UNIONIST'S GOOD ADVICE.

St. Louis, Mo., Jan. 16—In thanking delegates to the central trades and labor union for his re-election as president of the secretary, David Kreyling said:

"If you make progress slowly and feel things gradually they'll stay with you. Wards your step and be sure you are right before you go ahead."

WANT 44-HOUR WEEK.

New Brunswick, N. J., Jan. 16—The 1,000 carpenters employed by the building employers that their rate will be $1 an hour for a 44-hour week beginning May 1 next. This wage is becoming general throughout the state and local painters are hopeful that strike will be avoided.

GET EIGHT-HOUR DAY.

Boise, Idaho, Jan. 16—The new agreement secured by Laundry Workers' union No. 16 calls for the eight-hour day and wage increased.

UNIONS NOT NARROW; DREAMERS HELPFUL

Chicago, Jan. 16—Dreamers serve a good purpose in the trade union movement because they assist in stimulating thought and counteracting inertia, says President Perkins of the Cigar Makers' International union, in the official magazine of that organization.

"The cigar makers' executive well says that trade unionists neither fear nor shirk from those who hold adverse opinions," and that the door of trade unionism is open to every man and woman who works for wages.

"No organization, including labor, is perfect or can become perfect," he continues. "In the process of evolution that which seemed an ideal organization or state, if reached, would become old-fashioned and unsatisfactory. It is well that this is true and it will always be true so long as hope and ambition last, and so long as people should last forever. The natural evolution brings with it new ideas and increased ability, and higher and better hopes."

President Perkins then gives this advice to those who would divide workers through secession or dual-ism:

"The seal red-blooded man gets the best of life from the ranks of organized labor and there fights man-fashion against what he thinks is wrong and in advocacy of his ideals. The self-styled progressive is too often inclined to sulk and impatient with the evolutionary process and what he thinks is slow progress and inclined to run off and start something new—a dual organization, or something else, and they then start out with something new again, while the solid, substantial, plodding, evolutionary, constructive trade union movement continues to improve. The constructive trade union is always reliable, ready for sacrifice, willing to meet the other fellow halfway, and always ready to fight for principle, justice and right. Courageous men stand up and fight within the organization along constructive, substantial lines; they go forward runs away. He labors under the mistaken idea that the way to build up is to tear down."

MILLIONS FOR EDUCATION.

Washington, Jan. 16—The annual report of the federal board for vocational education indicates that progress is being made toward a systematic plan for vocational training, agriculture, home economics and industry.

Through the board the government allots to states an amount equal to the amount set by the state for these educational purposes. For the year 1919 there was available from federal funds for all forms of vocational education $7,000,000, the state amount approximately 75 per cent of the federal.

To take advantage of the federal appropriation the several states must provide federal vocational act, through their legislatures. The plan adopted by the board by every state and now an educational system is being developed in the states radiating from the federal board.

KANSAS GOVERNOR TALKS.

Topeka, Kan., Jan. 16—In a message to the state legislature Governor Allen rose to heights that passed as "statesmanship" in some quarters. He wants a law that would penalize strikers and called for "government such as Lincoln loved." The Kansas executive overlooked the fact that the great commoner elected in a governmental system that permitted workers to organize. Governor Allen also revamped the old bill that railroad brotherhood officials held a stop watch on congress when the national lawmakers were considering the Adamson law.

These brotherhood officials have repeatedly declared that they did not "hold a stop watch" to pass this law, that they did not favor it, and no declaration to the contrary can be shown by their opponents.

TO PROBE ELECTION FUNDS.

Bismarck, N. Dak., Jan. 16—The North Dakota state legislature has started a counter movement against individuals, associations and corporations who would injure the state's credit, wrecks its industrial programs and "buy" its legislation and elections.

A committee has been authorized to look into the sources from which political campaign funds come.

The legislature also created the office of state sheriff, whose duty it is to protect all citizens, guaranteeing them their constitutional rights.

URGE HIGHER BENEFITS.

Salem, Ore., Jan. 16—A commission appointed by Governor Olcott to consider the need of increased compensation for industrial and industrial workers has recommended that awards be advanced 25 per cent. The commission assigned three of its members to act as a committee to urge the legislature to accept the recommendation.

The commission consists of representatives of the industrial and employers. The two latter were appointed by the industrial commission, respectively.

MINERS CONFER.

Columbus, Ohio, Jan. 16—The executive board of the United Mine Workers reconvened in this city January 5. The board states that "this convention is reconvened so that your representatives may make a report to the delegates of the basis of settlement proposed by the president of the United States and presented by your representatives, together with the reasons which prompted the action, and to explain in detail the plan accepted."

WILL URGE TWO PLATOON.

Bloomington, Ill., Jan. 19—Advocates of the two-platoon system for firemen will resort to the initiative to force a referendum on the effort to abolish the 24-hour work day for these municipal employes.

BOOKBINDERS UNITE.

Indianapolis, Jan. 19—Officers of the International Brotherhood of Bookbinders report a gain in membership of $1,525 and [illegible]

FORESTS ARE RUINED; LUMBER CAMPS VILE

Philadelphia, Jan. 10—Nothing but compulsion will halt the devastation of America's forests. Living conditions of workers in lumber camps is intolerable.

The above summarizes a report by the committee for the application of forestry, which shows that more than 100,000,000 acres of forest land that ought to be growing wood have been devastated, and are now "waste lands."

The report records sharp criticism of conditions in lumber camps.

"Housing, sanitary arrangements and hours of labor often have been outrageous and living conditions intolerable," it is stated. "And this because the lumber camps and saw lumber town exist only long enough to skin this timber from the land. There is little or no permanent employment for the lumber jack in these camps.

"Under such circumstances the wood workers easily become vicious, landless, womanless, homeless and hopeless and therefore disorganized, restless and sympathetic with destructively radical doctrines. The conditions of forest labor need prompt and adequate attention. Past experience gives little reason to hope that the timber operators will, of their own accord, meet the situation in the open and in the spirit of the public to act.

"Legislation should not be confined to such items as hours of labor, housing and current living conditions. The basic trouble lies in the overlasting shifting in the location of the forest operations. This job is wholly unnecessary and must be stopped.

"Instead of cutting a forest in prohibited from devastating it, it may be required to cause one crop of timber to be grown and cut before the only then can the lumber camp and sawmill town become permanent and only then can forest labor be assured of a chance at those living conditions which the worker is justly entitled, a chance at a real home."

COSSACKS ARE GONE.

Denver, Jan. 10—The Colorado cossacks have gone out of business. The Denver Labor Bulletin says they "have left a trail of stench behind them that is unequaled in Colorado's history.

The labor paper declares that "practically all the business interests in the state were behind the creation of these black privateers, who were to pay down handsomely for service.

But the labor disturbances did not materialize and the cossacks devoted their time to rounding up bootleggers.

"At this job they were great," continues the Labor Bulletin, "and at all the whiskey they confiscated was consumed by members of the 'Cossacks.'

"The cossacks became so notorious in this work that the legislature refused to appropriate money for their maintenance. The governor, however, promised to make a special appropriation so that it might be revived at the next session. For the cossacks who were held began disposing of uniforms and supplies of those who had gone to the penitentiary and made of these sales and the thefts a business so lucrative that cossack defenders were silenced.

"And then," says the Labor Bulletin, "the cossacks started in to leaving one of the blackest spots in Colorado's history. The end at this point of crookedness and graft."

PRINTERS RAISE WAGES.

Washington, Jan. 16—Typographical union No. 101 has secured from 5 cents increases for its newspaper members, which brings the scale up to $47.25; day work, from $39 to $48.60; the seven-hour day prevails on both shifts.

Dubuque, Iowa, Jan. 16—The new wage scale of Typographical union No. 127 has been adopted, which has raised $28 for nine hours and $26 for night work either in newspaper or commercial shops.

New Haven, Conn., Jan. 16—Printers in commercial shops have had their wages voluntarily increased to $28 a week.

Muskogee, Okla., Jan. 16—Commercial printers have been forced out when they refused to accept nonunion shop conditions that employers call "open shop."

TUBERCULOSIS LEADS.

Washington, Jan. 16—In a study by the United states bureau of labor statistics of the cotton manufacturing industry, it is stated that the death rate of workers in cotton mills from tuberculosis is from seven to eight times greater than death from accident and industrial diseases.

"Naturally," continues the report, "the conditions of employment should not be neglected, but an even more important step is to remove the organ hazard from tuberculosis, so that the operative may live to enjoy the benefits of good wages and the other improved conditions which may be lasting as the result of further investigations."

OPPOSE U. S. SHIPS.

Washington, Jan. 16—As the result of a referendum of members of the 1,300 affiliates of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States, 1,000 organizations have declared against government-owned merchant ships.

Ownership and operation of ship building yards, with whatever encouragement is necessary, by private operation of ships, are included in the chief suggestions made. The proposals are contained in a committee and they submitted to affiliates. The votes were cast as organizations.

FEDERAL UNIONS GROW.

Washington, Jan. 16—The National Federation of Postal Employes reports nearly 10,000 more members in organization than a month ago, 10 more in November than in any other month since the beginning of organization. In a statement issued by this organization it is stated that several large gains have been made during the period that Senators Myers (Montana), Smith (Utah) and Congressman Blanton (Texas) attempted to force a reversal of the government employes' affiliation with the rest of organized labor.

"AIN'T IT THE TRUTH?"

Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, Jan. 16—In discussing the coming convention of the Alberta Trades and Labor Congress, the Edmonton Free Press, owned by the trades and labor congress, says:

"Attendance at next week will be closely watched. The discriminating labor minority will join with the stand pat employers in the hope that it will be able to discredit the real working class representation."

Prices Will Drop Slowly, Says U. S. Official

Washington, Jan. 16—Are the result of the inflation of the currency. The amount of money and checks in circulation must be appreciably reduced before prices of goods necessary goods must be increased in amount. The prices of commodities manufactured on government account must, so far as possible, be lowered to the level of the world market.

"The financing of the war has made 23 grow where but 11 grew before. This, coupled with the fact that the world is now adjusting itself to a new basis of economic distribution of economic goods and services, has caused a decrease in fortuous supplying these goods, explains the enormous and world-wide decrease in the purchasing power (value) of money, which is the inflation.

"As long as the people have twice as many dollars with which to buy as healthy sustaining economic conditions, prices are bound to fluctuate.

"It will take a long time to deflate the world's inflated currencies to inflate the world's inflated supply of goods. The problem is being solved one step at a time. The increase in prices. Undoubtedly, prices in most instances will be sent but existed and does exist today, but the problem is a result of over-inflation of currency, rather than a cause thereof. His influence be taken to stimulate further prices, of course, psychology is involved in the matter, and the effect of inflation is current and the doubtful

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